

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Application No.: 10/602,938

Filing Date: June 24, 2003

Applicant: Thompson M. Sloane et al.

Group Art Unit: 3748

Examiner: Zelalem Eshete

Title: ACETYLENE-BASED ADDITION FOR
HOMOGENEOUS-CHARGE COMPRESSION
IGNITION (HCCI) ENGINE OPERATION

Attorney Docket: 8450R-000038 (General Motors Docket No. GP-303216)

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

COMMUNICATION REGARDING MULTIPLE EXAMINER'S ANSWERS

Sir:

Appellants believe the record of the appeal is unclear due to the number of Examiner's Answers that have been filed, lately without explanation of the changes made.

In the beginning, Appellants filed an Appeal Brief April 21, 2005, the Examiner mailed an Examiner's Answer July 25, 2005, and Appellants filed a Reply Brief September 23, 2005.

The Board issued an order May 18, 2006, returning the appeal to the Examiner.

The Examiner mailed a new Examiner's Answer June 20, 2006, with the notation on Page 2 that the Answer was in response to the order and made the appropriate corrections. Specifically, the order required the identification of the References Relied Upon.

Appellants filed a new Reply Brief August 21, 2006.

The Examiner mailed a new Examiner's Answer November 22, 2006 that states on the cover page and on the top of page 2 that it is in response to the reply brief filed August 21, 2006 and addressed new issues on page 11.

Appellants filed a Supplemental Reply Brief on January 22, 2007 to respond to the new arguments on page 11 of the Examiner's Answer mailed November 22, 2006.

The Examiner has since filed four more Examiner's Answers: February 1, 2007, April 16, 2007, June 15, 2007, and August 2, 2007. These documents are not annotated to disclose what, if any, relationship they bear to earlier Examiner's Answers.

On examination, the January 30 and April 16 Examiner's Answers appear to be the same as the November 22, 2006 Examiner's Answer with these changes: The February 1, 2007 Answer uses a different type font, adds a section (11) on page 12 concerning the Related Proceeding(s) Appendix, and has a new date and new signatures on the final page. The April 16, 2007 Answer has the same changes, with the addition of Edward Look's signature on the final page.

The June 15 and August 2 Examiner's Answers appear to be the same as the June 20, 2006 Examiner's Answer with these changes: The June 15, 2007 Answer has a new date and signatures on page 12. The August 2, 2007 Answer adds a section (11) on page

11 concerning the Related Proceeding(s) Appendix and has a new date and signatures on page 12.

Appellants respectfully request correction if the above observations are inaccurate.

Respectfully submitted,



Anna M. Budde
Registration No. 35,085

September 20, 2007
Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600